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PROGRAM FOCUS ON YOUTH

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FULL TEXT

ALEXANDER KENYON: This is Alexander Kenyon, inviting you to "Focus on Youth." This week, with Admiral Stanfield Turner, the Director of the CIA.

ANNOUNCER: "Focus on Youth," America's student-produced press conference of the air is made possible by funding from the Shell Oil Company.

KENYON: Our first question for Admiral Turner is from Mitch Semmel(?).

MITCH SEMMEL: Sir, early in January, former CIA Director Richard Helm said, quote, "If we treat people who do intelligence work as second class citizens, we are not going to be able to get anybody to do our dirty work for us," end quote. Admiral Turner, I'm curious to know whether the unfavorable portrayal of CIA agents in the press has made it difficult to find qualified agents for the Agency?

ADMIRAL STANFIELD TURNER: Yes. It has -- it has particularly affected our overseas relationships because the number of leaks that we've had in the United States press about our activities, the disclosures of classified information diminished confidence of people with whom we work overseas that they can work with us and have it kept in confidence.

SEMMEL: A number of people have said that -- well, in 1974 and '75, well, it was suddenly the CIA agents who were the enemies, who were made out to be the bad guys in the press. Two years later -- two, three years later, when a number of them were released by the Agency under your order, suddenly they became the fall guys, and it was made to look like you were the bad guy, and I'm wondering if you think the press is just looking for a certain story in the CIA so that they can -- you know, sell copies out of it, or whatever?